

Powhatan Hotel (Roger Smith Hotel)
Northeast corner Pennsylvania Avenue
and 18th Street, NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-354
545

HABS
DC,
NASH,
508-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
DC,
WASH.,
508-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia		COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Powhatan Hotel			HABS NO. 545 DC-354
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Roger Smith Hotel			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Northeast corner Pennsylvania Avenue and 18th Street, NW			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1911		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Milburn, Heister & Co.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Interesting example of early 19th century hotel architecture. The building's roof garden was a popular dining and dancing spot for many years. From the roof, the Washington Monument was illuminated in 1925 for the first time.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick with stone trim			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Trapezoidal shape; 10 bays x 4 bays; 10 stories; flat roof			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Modillion: cornice; large 1st floor windows with splayed voussoir motif in brick; side bays have double windows above first floor; front bays have three windows (2 very narrow) above 1st floor; 2-story pilasters flank bays of 9th and 10th floors; decorative cornices above 1st, 7th and 8th floors			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) First floor contained lobby, main dining room and cafe; originally were 300 guest rooms			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Demolished 1975			
PRESENT CONOITION AND USE			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Became Roger Smith Hotel in 1938			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u>			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS			DATE 8/10/83